

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

VOL. 8

BENTON, MO., DECEMBER 12, 1908.

NO. 6

REELFOOT LAKE FACTS.

There have been so many distorted reports published in the big papers concerning the differences which led to the organization and activity of Nightriders in this county that a few facts should be briefly and plainly stated.

Reelfoot Lake was sunk by a succession of earthquakes in 1811-12. It is approximately 8 by 25 miles in size and has been used as a general hunting and fishing resort for pleasure and profit, free to everybody until recent years.

Claims to land titles, including land covered by Reelfoot Lake waters, have been instituted on almost countless occasions and from as many sources.

A few years ago a number of claims were consolidated and absorbed by the West Tennessee Land Company, organized under the law of Tennessee.

The courts of the state confirmed this company's titles.

Under the provisions of conveyance the exclusive fishing privileges were leased to the Reelfoot Fish Company and fishermen plying their trade on Reelfoot Lake were prohibited from selling to anyone else or in any other market.

A royalty was assessed on all fish caught for profit in Reelfoot Lake on the lands of the West Tennessee Land Company.

These were the conditions when it was announced that the Nightriders had burned the fishlocks at Samburg April 11, this year.

Afterwards the situation intensified and one or two of the stockholders sold their holdings in the West Tennessee Land Company to another stockholder, Capt. Quintin Rankin.

Matters continued in this shape until the world woke Tuesday morning, Oct. 20, to hear of the tragic death of Capt. Quintin Rankin and the miraculous escape of Col. R. Z. Taylor.

Coincident with this it is believed that a larger number of the band of Nightriders are not fishermen, but that a great many of them are farmers and landowners.—Union City (Tenn.) Commercial.

This is the story as told by a paper published in the county in which Reelfoot Lake is situated. Evidently out of respect for the relatives of the dead, it does not say that Rankin and Taylor were the attorneys of the dispossessed and proved false to them. According to my information this is a fact.

But the murder of Rankin cannot be defended, neither can the action of the court. For a hundred years Reelfoot Lake has been public property. All large bodies of water are public property. And how a court could say that a few rich men should have this lake for their own private use I leave for the reader to judge.

As I understand it, the rich of Tennessee had erected an elegant club house where they went, well supplied with booze, cigars and gambling outfits, and had a high old time. The men who had been earning a living for their families by fishing were barred and could not fish except on the terms dictated by those whom the court had declared to be the owners. The fishermen had to pay a royalty—divide up—and could sell only to the new owners!

But the fishermen got what they voted for. They are Democrats down there, and the Democratic platform reads: "The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties."

BEWARE OF GIFT BEARERS.

In the recent campaign the Socialist party met a severe test and met it successfully.

With capitalistic radicalism running rampant, all other minor parties were swept from the field.

The Independence party, the Prohibition party and the People's party are all in the hospital wounded unto death.

But the Socialist party stood like a stone wall.

It came out of the fight far stronger than it went in.

It demonstrated that it already holds the balance of power in these United States of America.

The Democratic party can never hope to win another victory by its own strength. It is doomed to wither away and die unless it can take on a new birth by absorbing the Socialist party.

Rest assured that the Democratic politicians are sagacious enough to recognize that fact. In numerous places during the coming four years the Democratic politicians will come to the Socialists with honeyed words, proposing an alliance in order to secure the offices.

Be prepared for them.

And turn them down cold.

The thing that needs explaining is why Bryan didn't do as well in the south as Parker did. In Georgia, for instance, Parker carried the state four years ago by 59,000. Bryan carried it last month by only 20,000.

HOW HE TWISTS.

Johnnie Brennen, of the Chaffee Review, seems to think he can demolish Socialism. His issue of November 27 contained quite a mess of what he thinks is good anti-Socialist argument. He takes up the lecture of Father Dowling, of Kansas City, reproduced in the Kicker of November 21, and proceeds to explain that this priest did not mean what he said—that Father Dowling had reference to the Socialism of Christ—and not the Socialism flouted by the Kicker. Listen to Johnnie:

"When the word Socialism was used by the Rev. Martin Dowling, it referred to the socialism of humanity as practiced by the Author of the Christian world. Christ was the greatest Socialist the world ever knew or ever will know—but His was a socialism that tended to elevate the minds and hearts of mankind to a better and nobler purpose; not mere scheming to obtain possession of property in one way, or which would prohibit the right of property in general, or that the making of goods for profit shall cease."

Say, Johnnie, were those money changers that Christ drove from the temple "making a profit"? Were they not the same sort of hypocrites that are entirely too numerous in our churches of today? Were not the rich and the powerful opposed to the Socialism of Christ just as they are opposed to the Socialism of Carl Marx today?

You say that Christ was the greatest Socialist that the world has ever known—or ever will know. Thank you for that admission. But you say that Father Dowling had reference to the Socialism as "practiced by the Author of the Christian world." Let's see about that. Read again what Father Dowling said and see if he is talking of 1,900 years ago. Read:

"At THIS STAGE when all minds are expectant and excited, SOCIALISM STEPS IN and demands a hearing. It is powerful because it voices WHAT EVERY TOILER FEELS, because it recognizes the need of reform and claims to possess THE REMEDY for social ills. It deals little with abstractions, but takes up facts. It is a fact that men, women and children of the same flesh and blood as ourselves live, labor and die under conditions unspeakable, without comfort, without pleasure, with starvation or the poorest starvation staring them daily in the face, constantly fearful of being submerged and all this through no fault of their own."

"Why," Socialism asks, "in this age of enlightenment, should any man or woman die of hunger in the midst of plenty? Why should some roll in wealth while others suffer fearful want?"

"Sympathy is aroused very slowly in those who take the complacent view that men are born into their different stations of life and that the less fortunate soon adapt themselves to their inevitable trials and difficulties. Those in higher social strata believe that they should thank God that they are not like the rest of men and hasten to make the best of their opportunities without too much thought of the submerged tenth and without considering how many of the sorrows of life are capable of alleviation. That this is a selfish view is evident; that it promotes the spirit of revolt among the industrial classes needs no proof."

Say, Johnnie, play fair. Is Father Dowling speaking of today, or of 1,900 years ago? And when you want to quarrel with the Kicker, please be fair enough to reproduce at least the sentence or paragraph that you wish to criticize. Why did you not reproduce what Father Dowling said and let your readers judge? Will you be fair enough to do so now?

It required considerable gall for Democrats to accuse the Socialists of being in cahoots with the Republicans in the face of the fact that it was Democratic votes that elected the Republican county judge from this district, and the further fact that the Republican nominee for constable of Kelso township withdrew in favor of the Democratic candidate in order to defeat the Socialist nominee. Talk about "deals!" It looks like a case of "give us the constable and you can have the county judge."

There were 75,000 fewer votes cast at the recent election in Missouri than four years ago. And four years ago the vote was small because of the Democratic disgust with Parker. Surely there is something very wrong. Watch those stay-at-home voters line up as soon as they are convinced that they have something to vote for besides "the lesser of two evils."

The coming year will be full of interesting events. If you get the Kicker you will get it all.



Scott County Teachers' Association at Benton, Mo., November 12, 13 and 14, 1908.

WHY IS IT SO?

While at Carthageville Monday we had a pleasant conversation with Hon. Chas. A. Crow, and while we differ with him politically, we believe he will prove a most worthy successor to Hon. J. J. Russell. Mr. Crow is liked by almost every citizen in his city, and this is as good a recommendation as one should desire. He will enter congress without any experience, but we feel sure he will do the right thing when voting on measures that come before the house, as he recognizes that without a great many democratic votes, he could not have been elected in this democratic district.—Portageville Critic.

Why is it that when a Democrat wishes to compliment a Republican, and vice versa, it is necessary to apologize with "while we differ with him politically?" The Critic says it believes Mr. Crow "will prove a most worthy successor to Hon. J. J. Russell;" that "he is liked by almost every citizen in his city;" and that "we feel sure he will do the right thing;" and yet it "differs with him politically." Bosh! Wherein do you differ?

If the Kicker is not mistaken in the newly elected congressman, he is a man of the people—something Joe Russell is not. If the Critic will watch closely it will find the metropolitan press throwing to the winds at Mr. Crow. The Republican machine tried hard to defeat him for the nomination and the "interests" opposed him at the general election. That newly Russell ran ahead of Bryan and Cowley in the district.

The Kicker predicts that Mr. Crow will be heard from in Congress and that the trust-owned newspapers will only have "silent contempt" and ridicule for him.

The South and West is said to be flooded with counterfeit \$5 bills. There are said to be some excellent imitations in circulation. The one giving the greatest trouble is an "Indian Head" \$5 silver certificate, series of 1899, check number D47963872, face plate 1164, back plate 782.

Patronize the Kicker.

A NATIONAL WAREHOUSE.

When the National Convention of Farmers' Union was in session at New Orleans recently, it proposed a scheme by which a gigantic warehouse was to be built for the purpose of storing the surplus products of the farmers all over the United States and holding them for more favorable prices.

Of course, the question of finances was next in order, and the governor of Louisiana appeared before the body and pledged himself to endeavor to secure an appropriation from the state for the purpose of erecting the warehouse, the state to have control of it after its erection. This seems to be a probability, as forty per cent of the members of the state legislature are also members of the Union.

There is already stored in various warehouses of the south at least a million bales of cotton which is in control of a committee of seven men, authorized to hold or to sell when the prices become right in their judgment. This amount of cotton being held off the active market will undoubtedly have some effect in a few months. It will make, at any rate, quite a difference with the spinners, if not with the speculators who buy cotton without ever seeing a look of it.

It is unquestionably true that the price of cotton has been held down this season by the rapidly with which it was placed on the market. The continued good weather caused the bolls to open more rapidly and the picking proceeded in the same manner. If the surplus had been stored instead of sold, quite a difference would have been made.

Mr. Callahan, who has charge of the million bales, has this to say about the plan: "It would store our surplus cotton in the most necessary way, we would certainly control the market. The farmers would have to their opportunity along this line."

The trusts have taught them, the system and now they are going to haul it back at the trusts. There is no longer lack of organization. We are well organized especially through the south, and are bound close together. This will be the farmers' trust, and the farmers will make the price.

Prepare for the new year. Subscribe for the Kicker.

A REAL NICE "PUFF."

We do not see why the Kicker thinks it was necessary for the local Democratic candidates to make him the "issue" in this county in the recent campaign. The vote very clearly shows that they were approved by the people of the county, as they were all re-elected. If he was really the "issue," however, as he says, then it clearly demonstrates that he is very unpopular, if they could all be elected upon the unpopularity of the Kicker. The truth is that he was not the "issue," and the candidates were all elected upon their merits and because their past official acts had shown them to be capable, honest and faithful to the duties of their offices, and the people endorsed them as they should have done.—Court House Organ.

It is nice for the county officials to say this of themselves—or have their hired man do it for them. Let's see how "the people endorsed them." A few years ago the average Democratic majority was from 800 to 1,100 without any effort on the part of "the party." At the recent election, after the most vigorous campaign ever waged by the Democrats, but one candidate received a majority of the vote—cast. All the rest were elected by pluralities averaging about one-third of what their clear majority used to be. If you are satisfied with this sort of an "endorsement," all right.

The one exception is Sheriff Watkins. He is such an improvement upon any sheriff "the party" has, that the people in the past have elected Sheriff Watkins without a dissenting voice.

In fact, it is such men as Sheriff Watkins and Collector Chas. Crow that keep the going in control, and their advent in politics is always opposed by "the party." Both came directly from between the plow handles and their election was a victory for the farmers.

In his first campaign Sheriff Watkins was defeated by the very men with whom he is now in close political alliance. Upon the retirement of Sheriff Watkins Mr. Gober was appointed in spite of the opposition

of "the powers." Although he had an overwhelming petition, HE KNOWS that the court was slow to act. But there seemed no way around it, and he was appointed. He has made a good officer and a majority of the voters endorsed him.

But there is a peculiar situation here that most people do not take into consideration. When it is discovered that a man is too popular among the masses to be defeated, "the party" is quick to recognize him and his ability to pull dead weight. When the lineup comes for the campaign all are in "the party," and it is such men as Mr. Gober and Mr. Christman who do the "pulling" while the dead weight just hangs on.

As for the "issue" in the recent campaign, the people know what the wind-jammers talked about, and what appeared in the thousands of circulars that were circulated on the day of election.

LARGEST STONE AN.

The largest stone as known was recently found in Clark county, Mo. It is 13 inches from edge to pole, 9 inches wide and 5 inches thick, has perfect groove-up and down the length on both sides, is in perfect shape and was found near the Los Mochos, north of Reyes. The largest stone previously found in the United States was about 20 pounds weight, but this one weighs by weight about 100 lbs. and is the largest stone of its kind ever found in the United States. It is a perfect specimen of the stone used by the Indians in their ancient times.

The stone was found by a party of men who were hunting for it. They found it in a field and it was the largest stone they had ever seen. It was found in a field and it was the largest stone they had ever seen.

When you have a little spare time, go out and urge your brother worker to become a reader of the Kicker. Tell him why he should be

THE SOUTHEAST.

Cape Girardeau Democrat.—The drinkless drink is now on the market in the shape of an evaporated drink of whiskey made into a paste. This latest thirst quencher struck town several days ago in the sample cases of a whiskey salesman. Efforts are being made to induce the local whiskey firms to order them for the trade in the lower counties of Southeast where the ordinary moist drink is barred by law. The fabricated "drink" looks like the cherry gelatine nestling in a saucer box. It smells a little like old rye. It can either be chewed or drunk. It is guaranteed to reach the right spot and produce the desired effect either way. To take it dry one has only to turn the box upside down and catch the gelatine as it drops out. If a wet drink is desired the gelatine can be easily dissolved in a little water and makes a man's size drink.

Although St. Francis county voted "dry" last spring, it won't stay that way. The law exempt cities of 2,500 from being governed by the people outside, but at the time the election was ordered Farmington was considered as a town of less than 2,500. Afterwards a census was taken which showed a population of 2,771. However, the county court refused to grant license to Farmington applicants and the court of appeals compelled them to do so. Now it is said the entire law for the county will be attacked—and, of course, knocked out. About all there is in the present method of the "reformers" fighting the liquor traffic is an increase in the income of lawyers and officials. Take the profit out of it and the liquor traffic will cease of its own accord. That is the Socialist remedy.

The people of Morehouse believe that Polk Holcomb, the man whose remains were found in the ruins of the Hummelberger-Harrison store after the recent fire, was murdered. Holcomb slept in the store. The first persons at the fire saw the back door of the store was open when they arrived. The shotgun kept by Holcomb was found. One lantern stood on a shelf and another had been knocked over and the light and fire were spread. The fact is that Holcomb was a man of means, and his death was a great loss to the community. The people are sure that he was murdered.

There is a party of men who are hunting for a stone. They found it in a field and it was the largest stone they had ever seen. It was found in a field and it was the largest stone they had ever seen.

When you have a little spare time, go out and urge your brother worker to become a reader of the Kicker. Tell him why he should be

The instants of the shoe factory at the Cape went out on strike last week. The men want living wages. But why do they kick? They are getting what they voted for—"prosperity."

Luther Baggett, 23 years old, was given 45 years in the pen by a Butler county jury last week, for the murder of Noah Sifford. Mrs. Sifford is charged as an accomplice.

At Gilson, in New Madrid county, three well developed sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Watson on Nov. 28.

The military store of Mrs. Myrtle Mahan, Main Street, Cape Girardeau, was ruined by fire last week.

Poplar Bluff has a negro in jail that is six feet five inches tall and broad in proportion.

OLD QUESTION ANSWERED
Does the hair grow after death? Perhaps no better case is on record than that of the body of John Shulze, who was buried thirteen years ago at Mulberry Graveyard, ten miles northwest of Kirksville. His body was exhumed Saturday and reburied here in Lewellyn Cemetery. It was in a perfect state of preservation, as was his clothes! His face, which was smoothly shaven at the time of his first burial, thirteen years ago, was covered with a beard nearly four inches long and his hair had grown to be as long as that of a woman.—Kirksville Express.

The Kicker calendars for 1909 are now ready, and patrons coming to Benton should call and get one. The Kicker will continue to tell it just as it happened. If you don't want to know the truth, don't take the Kicker, for it wears no masks of any sort. Just plain facts.



CHRISTMAS TRIX!

A Gorgeous Display for Big, Little, Old and Young, at

W. H. HEISSERER'S.

An endless variety of Mechanical toys, Manicure sets, toy dishes, hand-painted dishes, work-boxes, toy wagons and horses, toy wheel-barrows, toy furniture and stoves, nice albums, in fact, a complete line of holiday goods, including

Nuts, Fruits and Candies!

During the remaining days of 1908 I wish to dispose of a nice line of Ladies' and Childrens' Cloaks and Winter Underwear at especially low prices. A few Ladies' hats remain that will be sold regardless of cost. See for yourself.

Clothing for Men and Boys at almost Your own Price.

Special prices on Dress Goods. Come in and see Old Santa

W. H. HEISSERER, BENTON.